Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making glass comprising:

forming a dispersion of a pyrogenic silica with water, by mixing said pyrogenic silica with water,

gelling the dispersion,

drying the dispersion to obtain a microporous body,

sintering the body at a sufficient temperature for a sufficient time to produce a sintered glass body; and further comprising

adding acetic acid ethyl ester to the dispersion wherein the pyrogenic silica has the following physiochemical properties:

a) average particle size (D_{50} value) $D_{50} \geq 150$ nm (dynamic light scattering, 30 wt%);

b) viscosity (5 rpm, 30 wt%) $\eta \leq 100$ m·Pas;

c) thixotropy of T_i: $(\eta(5\text{ rpm}))/(\eta(50\text{ rpm})) \leq 2$;

d) BET surface area 30-60 m^2/g;

e) compacted bulk = 100-160 g/L; and

f) original pH ≤ 4.5.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising adding tetramethylammonium hydroxide to the silica and water to make the dispersion.

3. (Cancelled)

4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising pouring said dispersion into a mold.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1 wherein the pyrogenic silica has a deacidification index of less than 3% on a weight basis.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of making a sintered glass comprising:

mixing a pyrogenically prepared silicon dioxide with water to form a homogeneous dispersion, said pyrogenically prepared silicon dioxide having the following physicochemical properties:

a) average particle size (D_{50} value) $D_{50} \geq 150$ nm (dynamic light scattering, 30 wt%);

b) viscosity (5 rpm, 30 wt%) $\eta \leq 100$ m·Pas;

c) thixotropy of T_i: $(\eta(5 \text{ rpm}))/(\eta (50 \text{ rpm})) \leq 2$;

d) BET surface area 30-60 m^2/g;

e) compacted bulk = 100-160 g/L; and

f) original pH ≤ 4.5

pouring the dispersion into a mold,

gelling the dispersion in the mold to form a gelled body,

removing the gelled body from the mold, and

drying the gelled body to form a microporous green body,

sintering the green body by zone,

sintering the green body by zone sintering under vacuum to thereby obtain a sintered glass body.

8. (Original) A glass body made by the method according to claim 1.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A glass body made by the method according to claim 6.